Establishment of multi-polar world

2385: SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to play a constructive role in establishement of a multi-polar world and economic globalisation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) Government stands committed to a multi-polar world and strongly believes that a multi-polar world is in the interest of global peace and security. In line with this basic tenet of its foreign policy India has repeatedly articulated in various international fora the desirability of building broad consensus on important issues affecting the international community. Besides its membership of various regional and sub-regional groupings, India has structured dialogue with European Union, ASEAN, African Union, Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Pacific Islands Forum, etc. Similarly India has been in the forefront of articulating and championing the interests of the developing countires in various international fora like WTO, G-77 and G-20 and recently held World Summitt on Sustainable Development to ensure that the benefits of economic globalisation are equally shared by all the countires.

Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement with France

2386. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and France have finalised the Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement in criminal and civil matters and also exchange of foreign prisoners;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India and France have also signed a extradition treaty; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes, India and France have finalised and signed the Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and in Civil Matters. However, no Agreement on exchange of foreign prisoners between India and France has been finalised.

(b) Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and in Civil Matters were signed between India and France on 25.01.1998 during the visit of the French President to India. Both the Agreements will become operative after the completion of internal process from both sides.

Ministry of Home Affairs has introduced an enabling legislation to permit exchange of foreign prisoners and it is under the consideration of the Parliament. Only after the enactment of the enabling legislation, the Government of India can enter into negotiation with France for an Agreement on exchange of foreign prisoners.

(c) Yes.

(d) The Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister signed the Extradition Treaty with France on January 24, 2003 in Paris. The Treaty will come into force after the exchange of instruments of ratification.

Separate Ministry for NRIs

†2387. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a demand for constituting a separate Ministry is being made for solving the problems of Non-Resident Indians and for providing a boost to their contribution for development of the country;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (c) The High Level Committee on the Indian Diaspora which submitted its Report to the Government in December, 2001 had wide ranging consultations with every segment of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.